

Hook-up horror stories begin

by BUD MARTELLO

Julianne 2-10-12

KIRTLAND - After all the struggle and time to get a primary sewage line run down Chillicothe Road, the city of Kirtland is now having to deal with tie-in issues. Three residents of North Star, which is in the Templeview district, came to council to report on problems they observed as the contractors began to hook up their homes to the sewer system.

First up were the Oculys who reside on North Star. They asked council, "Who is supposed to inspect the job to insure it is properly installed?"

Council indicated that the Lake County Department of Utilities inspector was to be the person responsible. The mayor, the city engineer and service director are to meet to discuss the issues posed by the Oculys.

"This is the first we are hearing of these issues," said Council President R. Robert Umholz, "but rest assured we will investigate and get back to you."

Oculy pointed out that in the construction of the pump house behind City Hall, the ravine was blocked, which allows water to dam up, and "We now have a 30-foot deep swamp there," she said.

"We will correct this issue in the spring," said Philip Kiefer, city engineer.

The Oculys also said they had no confidence in the inspector.

"It is the most convoluted installation, that goes from the back of the house around to the front, with many bends and elbows, down the center of our drive. No effort was made to backfill the trench with gravel, and by the house the pipe is only four inches deep. I also wonder about the pipe used, which is said to be a SDR 35 (standard dimension ratio of pipe describing the ratio of wall thickness of the pipe to its diameter.) Who specifies that?" Daniel Oculy asked.

On top of all this, the Oculys were presented with a bill for \$1,900.

Tom Coleman, also of North Star, raised the issue of the pressure testing.

"As of a week ago, three quarters of the houses on North Star have flunked the pressure test. I think the contractor needs to be investigated," he said.

Dan Merten, a resident of North Star, echoed the Oculy and Coleman complaints.

Council man Bob Skirbis proposed that once the mayor, the city engineer and service director did their research, that the residents be informed as to what is going on. Residents who need to be informed should give their phone contact number to Denise Roelle, clerk of council, so they can be contacted when the issues are resolved.

Mayor Mark Tyler reported that the budget review is almost complete. "I expect to be spending considerable time reviewing the comprehensive plan," he

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said.

Finance Director Martinet said that the state Auditors were performing their audit of the city.

"This is done by law every three years," he said.

In other business, council approved Dr. James H. Porter's appointment to the Volunteer Firefighter's Dependents Board. Also having her appointment to the board confirmed was Wendy

C. Hutton.

Tyler was reappointed to the Board of Trustees of the Community Improvement Corporation of Lake County.

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